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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/673,207	09/30/2003	Hyung-Jong Kang	101-1004	9591

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STANZIONE & KIM, LLP
919 18TH STREET, N.W.
SUITE 440
WASHINGTON, DC 20006

EXAMINER	
SARPONG, AKWASI	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2625	

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05/24/2010	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/673,207	KANG ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	AKWASI M. SARPONG	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *09 March 2010*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *43-56* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *43-56* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *30 September 2003* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *10/27/2005*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Detailed Action
Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 02/23/2010 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 43-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen (7019869) in view of Iwai (20020021766).

Chen discloses an image forming apparatus **(Col. 5 lines 63-64, Fax-Scanning apparatus 400 shown in Fig. 4)** comprising:

a scanner module **(Col. 3 line 25, image scanning unit 110)** to scan a document to generate scanned data **(Col. 5 line 67- apparatus 400 includes a scanning unit).**

a first input/output port **(interface 472 shown in fig. 4)** connectable to a computer. **(Col. 7 lines 15-18- work station 592 or 592 can be connected through interface 472)**

a second input/output port **(USB interface 471 shown in Fig. 4)** removably connectable to a portable storage unit **(USB equipment 481 shown in Fig. 4)** and a control unit **(control unit 140 shown in Fig. 1)** and to control storing of the scanned data **(Col. 6 lines 37-38- thus scanned data is stored using the USB device 481)** the control unit stores the scanned data in the portable storage unit. **(Col. 6 lines 37-38- thus scanned data is stored using the USB device 481).**

Chen does not disclose wherein the attachment state of the portable storage unit and storing the scanned data in accordance to the detected attachment state of the portable storage unit such that when it is determined that the portable storage unit is attached to the second input/output port.

Iwai discloses wherein the attachment state **(Section 0105, lines 3-4)** of the portable storage unit **(external memory 3, Section 0105, line 6)** and storing the scanned data **(Section 0108 lines 6-9 "program reservation data")** in accordance to the detected attachment state of the portable storage unit such that when it is determined that the portable storage unit is attached to the second input/output port. **(Section 0105, lines 4-6, the attachment state of the external memory 3 is detected and sent to the control section 221, fig. 11)**. Therefore it will be obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify control unit 140

to be able to detect the attachment of USB equipment 481 as clearly taught by Iwai so that the control unit will be aware that the USB equipment 481 is available to be read to. This will save time in processing image data since no time is wasted in sending an image data and the storage device will not be attached or not in the read state.

Claim 44, Chen in view Iwai discloses that the image forming apparatus further comprising an internal storage unit to store data, **(Chen: Col. 5 line 26 "memory device")**.

However, Chen does not teach when it is determined that the portable storage unit is not attached to the second input/output port, the control unit stores the scanned data in the internal storage unit.

Chen in column 5, lines 20-30, teaches that when a memory (floppy disc of column 5, line 24) is not connected or is out of memory space, the system will store it internally (memory device, column 5, line 26).

Using the same concept, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art to check whether the external memory is connected or run out of memory and stores the scanned data in the internal memory when the external memory is not connected such that valuable data will not be lost due to lack of memory.

Claim 45, Chen in view Iwai discloses that the image forming apparatus further comprising a printing unit **(Chen: Printer 482 shown in Fig. 4)** for printing the scanned data stored either in the internal storage unit or the portable storage unit connected to

the second input/output port. **(Chen: Col. 6 lines 35-38- thus the scanned image data can be printed by using printer 482)**

Claim 46, Chen in view Iwai discloses wherein the second input/output port comprises a universal serial bus (USB) port **(Chen: Col. 6 line 6, Fig. 4 interface 471)** and the portable storage unit comprises a USB memory device. **(Chen: USB equipment 481 shown in fig. 4)**

Claim 47, Chen in view Iwai discloses wherein the portable device comprises one selected from the group consisting of a memory stick (MS), a compact flash (CF) card, **(Iwai: Section 0126 line 4"Compact disk")** a secure digital (SD) memory card, **(Iwai: Section 0126 lines 6-7 "SD memory")** a multimedia card (MMC), a smart media (SM) card, a universal serial bus (USB) memory card, **(Chen: USB equipment 481 shown in fig. 4)** and an xD-picture card.

Claim 48, Chen in view Iwai discloses wherein the second input/output port communicates with the portable storage unit. **(Chen: Obviously port 472 can also be used to connect USB equipment 481)**

Claim 49, Chen in view Iwai discloses wherein the second input/output port comprises a USB port. **(Chen: One skilled in the art can modify port 472 to be a USB port as 471 is a USB port)**

Claim 50, Chen in view Iwai discloses wherein the portable storage unit comprises a USB connector connectable to a USB port of the second input/output port.

(Chen: USB port 471 has to be a USB connector in order to connect to USB equipment 481)

Claim 51, Chen discloses a method of storing scanned data (Col. 6 lines 37-38) generated by a scanner module **(Col. 3 line 25, image scanning unit 110)** of an image forming apparatus **(Col. 5 lines 63-64, Fax-Scanning apparatus 400 shown in Fig. 4)** comprising a first input/output port connectable to a computer **(Col. 7 lines 15-18- work station 592 or 592 can be connected through interface 472)** and a second input/output port removably connectable to a portable storage unit, **(USB equipment 481 shown in Fig. 4 and the USB equipment)** the method comprising:

scanning a document to generate scanned data; **(Col. 5 lines 67- 69- thus the image data is scanned)**

Chen does not disclose wherein the attachment state of the portable storage unit and storing the scanned data in accordance to the detected attachment state of the portable storage unit such that when it is determined that the portable storage unit is attached to the second input/output port.

Iwai discloses wherein the attachment state **(Section 0105, lines 3-4)** of the portable storage unit **(external memory 3, Section 0105, line 6)** and storing the scanned data **(Section 0108 lines 6-9 "program reservation data")** in accordance to the detected attachment state of the portable storage unit such that when it is determined that the portable storage unit is attached to the second input/output port. **(Section 0105, lines 4-6, the attachment state of the external memory 3 is detected and sent to the control section 221)**. Therefore it will be obvious to one ordinary

skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify control unit 140 to be able to detect the attachment of USB equipment 481 as clearly taught by Iwai so that the control unit will be aware that the USB equipment 481 is available to be read to. This will save time in processing image data since no time is wasted in sending an image data and the storage device will not be attached or not in the read state.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed on 02/23/2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding claims 43 applicant argues that the reference on record does not teach or disclose the limitation

"a control unit to detect an attachment state of the portable storage unit with respect to the second input/output port and to control storing of the scanned data according to the detected attachment state of the portable storage unit such that when it is determined that the portable storage unit is attached to the second input/output port, the control unit is operable to store the scanned data in the portable storage unit,"

In reply, Examiner respectfully disagree because Chen in view of Iwai discloses a control unit **(Chen: Control unit 140 shown in Fig. 1)** to detect an attachment state of the portable storage unit with respect to the second input/output port **(Section 0105, lines 4-6, the attachment state of the external memory 3 is detected and sent to the control section 221)** and to control storing of the scanned data according to the

detected attachment state of the portable storage unit such that when it is determined that the portable storage unit is attached to the second input/output port, **(Section 0108 lines 6-9)** the control unit is operable to store the scanned data in the portable storage unit. **(Col. 6 lines 37-38- thus scanned data is stored using the USB device 481)**

Regarding Claims 52, applicant argues that the reference on record does not disclose "storing the scanned data according to the detected attachment state of the portable storage unit such that when it is determined that the portable storage unit is attached to the input/output port, a control unit of the image forming apparatus is operable to store the scanned data in the portable storage unit"

In reply, Examiner respectfully disagree because Chen in view of Iwai discloses storing the scanned data according to the detected attachment state of the portable storage unit such that when it is determined that the portable storage unit is attached to the input/output port, **(Section 0105, lines 4-6, the attachment state of the external memory 3 is detected and sent to the control section 221)** a control unit of the image forming apparatus is operable to store the scanned data in the portable storage unit. **(Chen: Control unit 140 shown in Fig. 1).**

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to AKWASI M. SARPONG whose telephone number is

(571)270-3438. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm est.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, King Poon can be reached on 571-272-7440. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/King Y. Poon/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625

/Akwasi M Sarpong/
Examiner, Art Unit 2625